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FLOOR DEBATE

February 14, 2005 LB 118, 126, 162, 346

heat to keep that school open. There are costs to close down a school. It doesn't go away just because the board says, let's close the school. There are still costs that are involved in that. So some of these schools that still have dollars, that are costing the state of Nebraska money, doesn't mean that they aren't in the process of closing down. And if there's any money left, it goes back to the state or to the school that's involved in the K-12 system. It's not a loss of money. I think we've discussed this a long time. I think that we probably haven't swayed anyone from those that support the bill or those that oppose the bill. There are many, many unanswered questions here. Senator Landis brings that out, and various other Senators. This is a big issue. We haven't been able to solve it on the floor. And I think it's a good idea if maybe we could sit down, discuss some of the problems, and come to some agreement.

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR McDONALD: Compromise. Compromise is what it's all about. We need to do that on this bill. This is a big issue for rural Nebraska, taking away their Class I schools opportunity, to take away rural...any possible chance of rural economic development. And I would hope that we can spend some time looking at this issue. If we're not going to save money, if it's not a deal with the concern to education that these children are getting an inefficient education, then what is it? Is it difficult to do the assessments on Class I schools? Is that the problem here? Because in a small school, it's very difficult to do the assessment, or at least have those be publicized, because in a small school, you know who the children are that are making it, and the ones that aren't. Is that the real problem? Well, we can handle that. Many of the Class I schools have united to come to a larger school.

SENATOR CUDABACK: Time. Thank you, Senator McDonald. Mr. Clerk, items for the record.

CLERK: Mr. President, I have amendments to be printed: Senator Cunningham to LB 118; Senator Beutler, LB 162; Senator Kremer, LB 346; Senator Fischer, LB 126; Senator Burling, LB 126;